National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

2019 ADMINISTRATOR'S AGENCY HONOR AWARDS

Goddard Space Flight Center
August 28, 2019

Foreword

Message from the NASA Administrator
2019 Agency Honor Awards

NASA continues to go further, increase our scientific knowledge faster, and improve the human condition better than anyone else, because we have the world's best workforce. The Agency Honor Awards is a special occasion to recognize those whose dedicated work has propelled NASA higher and has enabled humanity to take one more step to making the unthinkable possible.

I am pleased that this year's Honor Awards is hosted at the Goddard Space Flight Center as it celebrates its 60th anniversary. Named after American rocket propulsion pioneer Dr. Robert H. Goddard, employees here build on his legacy by helping to advance space and Earth science. Thousands of dedicated civil servants and contractors provide vital support to numerous NASA missions, and display daily their commitment to further discovery for the benefit of all of humanity.

This year, the attention of the world once again turned to NASA as we celebrated the golden anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon landing and further unveiled our plans to return to the Moon and go forward to Mars. The story of our herculean effort to land men on the Moon in the late 1960s is an able guide to help us – the Artemis generation – prepare to advance humanity's future in space exploration.

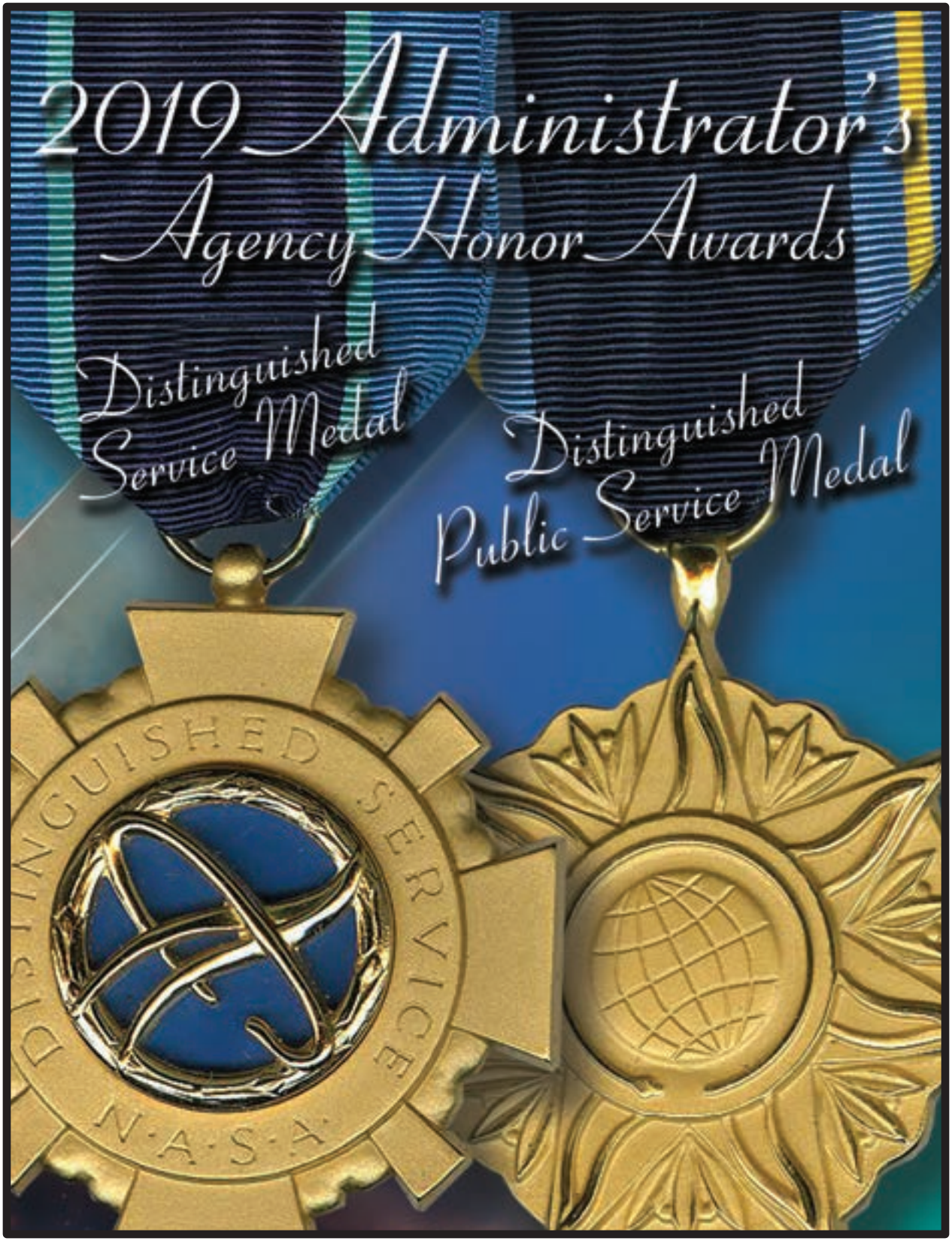
This bold plan will require the talents of all of the NASA family. Together, I am confident we will unleash our true potential and lead humanity to greater heights of scientific and technological achievement. No problem is too great or mission too difficult for our talented workforce.

As we proudly recognize the honorees with NASA's highest awards -- the Distinguished Service Medal and the Distinguished Public Service Medal – I hope we all will seek to emulate their career excellence and sustained tenacity to overcome the challenges confronting our Agency. Their pattern of success bears the fruits of courage in the face of uncertainty and unyielding persistence in the uncharted territory of future discovery.

I extend my personal congratulations to each of the honorees and offer my heartfelt gratitude for the legacy you have built. Your hard work empowers and inspires us to rise up to meet the challenges of today. NASA is a better place because of who you are and what you do every day. Thank you!

Ad astra

Jim


2019 Administrator's
Agency Honor Awards
Distinguished
Service Medal
Distinguished
Public Service Medal
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
N·A·S·A

Program

Introductions
Amy Grigg
Mistress of Ceremonies

Presentation of Colors
Armed Forces Color Guard

The National Anthem
Linda Glusing
Safety and Mission Assurance Directorate, Goddard Space Flight Center

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George Morrow
Acting Director, Goddard Space Flight Center

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Stephen Jurczyk
Associate Administrator

Address
James “Jim” Bridenstine
Administrator

Presentation of Distinguished Honors
James “Jim” Bridenstine
Administrator

Stephen Jurczyk
Associate Administrator

Closing Remarks
Amy Grigg
Mistress of Ceremonies

Reception
Building 21, GIC^2 Library

Center Tour

Distinguished Service Medal

This is NASA's highest form of recognition that is awarded to a Government employee who, by distinguished service, ability, or vision, has personally contributed to NASA's advancement of United States' interests. The individual's achievement or contribution must demonstrate a level of excellence that has made a profound or indelible impact on NASA mission success, and therefore, the contribution is so extraordinary that other forms of recognition by NASA would be inadequate.

Richard Antcliff
Richard Barney
Darren Bedell
Dwayne C. Brown
Thomas Bryan
Layne Carter
Rickey Cissom
Joseph Cuzzupoli*
William DeLoach
Daniel Dittman
Edward Fein
Michael Freilich*
Michael Good
Tyrell Hawkins
William Hicks*
Andrew Hunter*
Dorsie Jones*
Vickie Kloeris
Joseph Madden
Edward Masuoka
Todd May*
William Myers
Jim Reuter*
Melvin Scruggs
Robert Scully
Jaiwon Shin
Patrick Simpkins*
Steven Sullivan
Eric Thaxton
Michael Van Houten
Brenton Weathered
Terry Wilcutt*

* The Agency Honor Award was awarded between June 1, 2018, and May 10, 2019, outside the normal awards cycle.

Distinguished Public Service Medal

This is NASA's highest form of recognition that is awarded to any non-Government individual or to an individual who was not a Government employee during the period in which the service was performed, whose distinguished service, ability, or vision has personally contributed to NASA's advancement of United States' interests. The individual's achievement or contribution must demonstrate a level of excellence that has made a profound or indelible impact on NASA mission success, and therefore, the contribution is so extraordinary that other forms of recognition by NASA would be inadequate.

Alaudin Bhanji

Daniel Coulter

Robert Ergun

Michael Graybill

Thomas Howsman

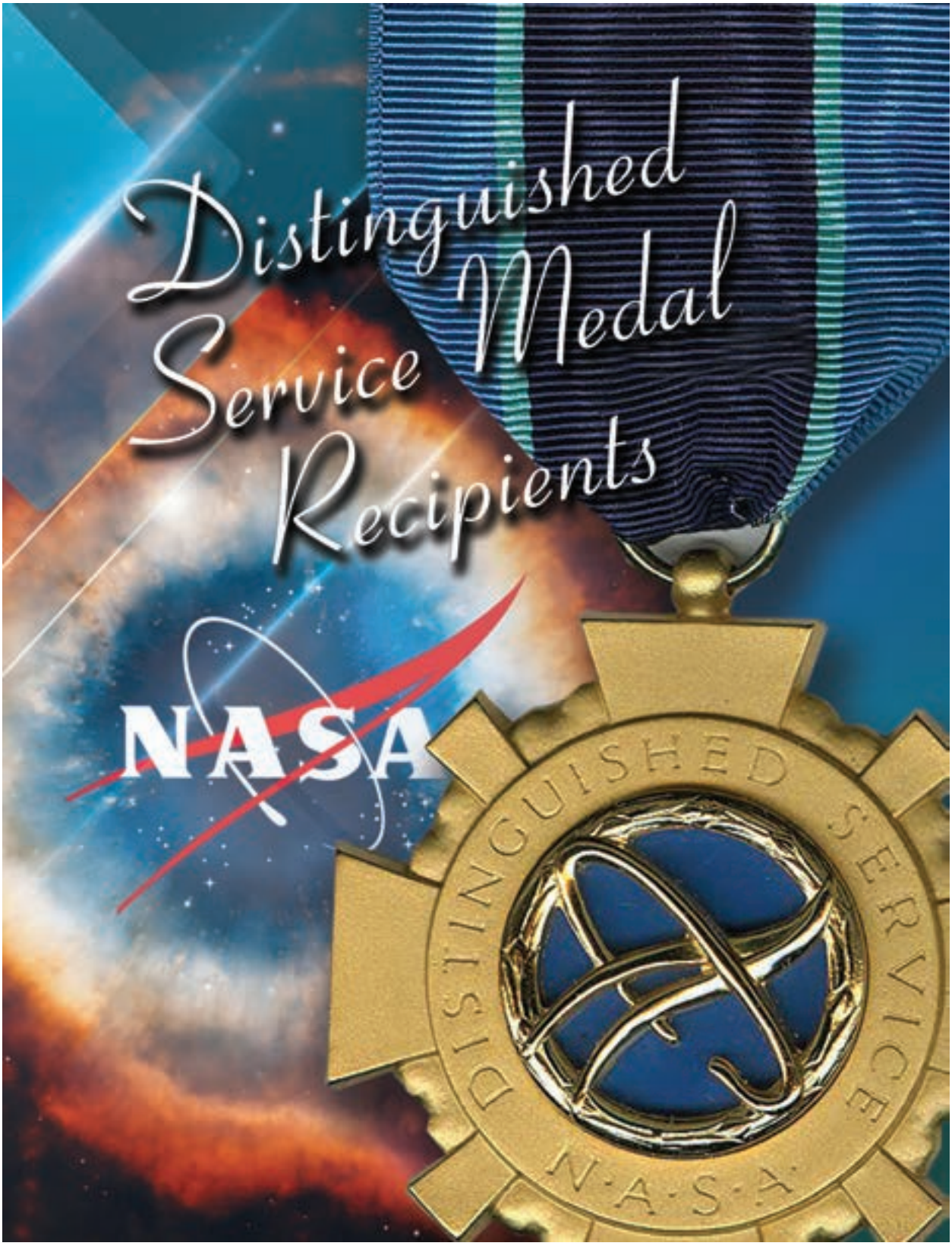
Miguel Larsen

Charles Lawrence

Edward Sikora

Robert Sinclair

Jakob van Zyl


Distinguished
Service Medal
Recipients
NASA
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
N·A·S·A

Richard Antcliff

For a career of extraordinary contributions, distinguished service, and outstanding leadership in support of NASA's missions.

Dr. Antcliff's distinguished 33-year NASA career is demonstrated through his outstanding technical excellence, leadership agility, and keen mind for strategic planning and implementation. From his early career as a world-class researcher in laser-based spectroscopic instrumentation development at NASA Langley Research Center, Dr. Antcliff's ability to strategize and conceive innovative technical and programmatic solutions to difficult challenges was evident. He served in various roles with progressive responsibility, leading the development and management of a Center strategy to ensure the maximum contribution to national priorities. His exceptional service to the Agency has spanned cutting-edge research, national program management, and critical strategy development, substantially contributing to the future of NASA and Langley Research Center.

Richard Barney

For outstanding leadership for NASA and the country in Instrument development, Systems Engineering, and Safety and Mission Assurance.

Mr. Barney's distinguished service spans over 35 years for NASA. As the first head of Goddard Space Flight Center's (GSFC's) Flight Instrument Development Branch and leader of the Instrument Technology Division, he made an indelible mark on the space and science communities in his leadership of instruments such as the Cosmic Background Explorer, a Nobel Prize winner, and detectors on the Hubble and James Webb Space Telescopes and Cassini probe. As Director of Safety and Mission Assurance (SMA), he implemented a revolutionary transformation from a requirements-based to a risk-based approach, changing the culture, and proved that risk-based does not mean risky. His recognition in patents, speeches, and writing testifies to his prominence. Mr. Barney's long history of leadership and major contributions in pioneering instrument development as well as transforming SMA is invaluable.

Darren Bedell

For driving the culture and capabilities that have resulted in unparalleled commercial launch services, enabling over 100 NASA missions to achieve their destinations.

Mr. Bedell has been a model of outstanding leadership and innovation throughout his career at NASA. He has held several management positions in the Launch Services Program (LSP) over the last 20 years. Mr. Bedell has been instrumental in evolving LSP to meet new challenges and provide expertise to NASA and other agencies as well as expanding its ability to provide unique "LSP advisory services" to missions that did not purchase their launch vehicles in a traditional way, such as foreign-contributed launch vehicles or delivery of on-orbit services. His assessments have been critical to cost, availability, and reliability of launch vehicles and guided acquisition approaches for dozens of NASA missions worth billions of dollars, including the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter and New Horizons missions on Atlas V rockets and Jason-3 ocean monitoring mission atop a Falcon 9 rocket.

Dwayne C. Brown

For your sustained and dedicated commitment to bringing NASA's astonishing achievements to the news media and general public for the past 39 years.

For 39 years, Mr. Brown has been instrumental in communicating NASA's achievements. From his early career supporting aeronautics and the Space Shuttle Program to the past 14 years of sharing NASA science with millions, he set a standard of excellence in public communications. In the early years, Mr. Brown commanded the respect of worldwide media professionals at Space Shuttle launches with his objective, professional running of press events. More recently, he has been at the forefront of NASA's science stories by conveying breakthrough scientific discoveries to the general public, leading press events, and creating news releases. Mr. Brown is lauded for his distinguished commitment to the NASA core values of safety, integrity, excellence, and teamwork and his tireless efforts to ensure the widest dissemination possible of accurate and timely NASA science news.

Thomas Bryan

For extraordinary and distinguished leadership service in the development of NASA's Human Space Flight missions and programs.

Mr. Bryan has distinguished himself in leadership and innovation during his 40-year career. As head of the Flight Robotics Laboratory, he oversees NASA and industry partners performing autonomous and man-in-the-loop testing in nearly frictionless conditions for three-degree-of-freedom motion. He also manages the Six-Degree-of-Freedom Facility and is at the forefront of reducing risk across NASA through increasing technology maturation of selected navigation hardware and algorithms through testing and simulation. Mr. Bryan oversaw integration and testing of the Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) flight vehicle using an Advanced Video Guidance Sensor never before accomplished in NASA history. He also led integration and testing of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's vehicle docking systems that led to the first automated berthing ever accomplished in space.

Layne Carter

For exceptional technical support of the International Space Station Environmental Control and Life Support System as the Agency expert in spacecraft water systems.

Mr. Carter demonstrated outstanding and sustained performance supporting the development and continued operation of the Environmental Control and Life Support System (ECLSS) on the International Space Station (ISS), which is critical to maintaining NASA's astronaut presence on the ISS. Mr. Carter's work includes the Water Processor Assembly and the Urine Processor Assembly. He significantly contributed to the successful operation of the operation of these functions for over 10 years. Mr. Carter identified the challenges associated with certain compounds in the ISS atmosphere that negatively affected the ECLSS. He proactively determined the source of the compounds and reduced them, and he proposed system redesign concepts to better protect the ECLSS. His approach will benefit the ISS for the remainder of its lifetime and for all future deep space human exploration spacecraft.

Rickey Cissom

For lifelong dedication to the ISS Program by leading multiple contract recompetes, driving the culture change to using commercial approaches for historically government work.

Mr. Cissom's contributions have spanned a notable 30-plus-year career. His early work included the Common Systems Operations Cost approach, still in use with International Space Station (ISS) partners today. As Utilization Manager, he led the mission operations concept development and defined the requirements for the flight and ground systems for ISS payload operations and utilization across five NASA Centers. He led payload operations from concept development through design, development, test, and on-orbit execution. Mr. Cissom chaired multiple Source Evaluation Boards for the ISS Program and served as the ISS Russian Integration Manager. He has led the ISS Program in executing new contract approaches on multiple contracts to move the Agency toward new ways of doing business, saving NASA over 50% in cost and speeding up integration of ISS research by over 25%.

Joseph Cuzzupoli (Awarded Posthumously)

For distinguished service in support of NASA's missions past and present, and extraordinary contributions to benefit our Nation's Aeronautics and Space Programs for future generations.

After many years of exceptional service to NASA and more than 50 years of aerospace and engineering expertise, Mr. Cuzzupoli passed away in March 2019. He began his career with General Dynamics working on the Atlas rocket, then performed key management roles for several contractors during both the Apollo and Space Shuttle Programs. For more than 20 years, he served as a member of the NASA International Space Station Advisory Committee. In addition, Mr. Cuzzupoli contributed his vast knowledge to the NASA Advisory Council's Task Force on the Shuttle-Mir Rendezvous and Docking Missions (1996–1998), Return to Flight Task Group (2003–2005) following the following the Space Shuttle Columbia accident, and NASA Advisory Council Exploration Committee (2010–2019).

William DeLoach

For distinguished and exemplary service in leading the NASA Kennedy Space Center Safety and Mission Assurance Directorate.

Mr. DeLoach served NASA with distinction for more than 30 years, consistently applying NASA's core values of safety, integrity, teamwork, and excellence. As the Safety and Mission Assurance (S&MA) Director at NASA's Kennedy Space Center (KSC), Mr. DeLoach was a results-driven visionary, challenging conventions to achieve the goals of our national space program while capably guiding and inspiring those under his leadership to do the same. He played a key role in repurposing world-class Center assets for use by private industry and commercial space flight organizations and facilitated success by building lasting relationships with Government and commercial partners, ensuring KSC's S&MA supported, partnered, and developed new approaches to protect the public and Government assets. He leads by example, fosters equal opportunities, and builds lasting alliances based on trust.

Daniel Dittman

For sustained impact over the entire portfolio of NASA Ames Research Center's technical activities through trusted, thorough, and reliable engineering.

For over 30 years, Mr. Dittman has delivered thorough and trusted engineering analyses, project guidance, and resolute leadership. His impact spans development activities to operational missions, air and space vehicles, ground and flight segments, hardware and software systems, and NASA policy. His problem solving and risk management enabled many successes for project teams at Ames Research Center (ARC), culminating in his service as Acting Chief Engineer. He improved the performance and reliability of ARC wind tunnels, and his Durable Advanced Flexible Reusable Surface Insulation design and patent are finding application on commercial space vehicles. He led development of elements of the International Space Station biology equipment suite, centrifuge rotor, glove box, and habitat holding racks. He was instrumental in developing ARC's small satellite portfolio.

Edward Fein

For distinguished service and personal impact widely recognized as important contributions to NASA's human spaceflight and technology transfer missions.

Mr. Fein demonstrates a level of excellence that has made a profound and indelible impact on NASA's technology transfer mission. As Johnson Space Center's (JSC's) Intellectual Property (IP) Counsel, he patented 215 technologies from early Mercury spacecraft to the International Space Station (ISS). He facilitated over 13 patents and 19 licenses based on NASA bioreactor technology. Today, he oversees significant changes in how NASA conducts acquisitions in the New Space era. Moreover, NASA infused many of his team's techniques in contracts related to next-generation Extravehicular Activity (EVA) suit technology and commercialization of the ISS. For over 51 years, Mr. Fein has been a significant force for transferring NASA human space flight technologies to the commercial sector, creating jobs as well as benefiting NASA and humankind.

Michael Freilich

For a lifetime of sustained leadership, vision, extraordinary achievements in Earth science, and commitment to advancing NASA's mission.

Dr. Freilich's progressive experience in research, science management, and unparalleled visionary leadership in Earth science has strengthened NASA, the Nation, and global science communities in this important field of research. Dr. Freilich pioneered NASA's first sustained, competitive Earth science program for low-cost, cutting-edge, principal-investigator-led flight missions within the Earth Venture Program Element. The program develops innovative Earth-observing instruments and missions, including SmallSat/CubeSat constellations and payloads on commercial satellites. He created a vibrant In-Space Validation of Earth Science Technologies program of rapidly developed technology demonstrations using low-cost delivery vehicles. New public-private relationships he led will save the Government significant cost while advancing Earth science research objectives.

Michael Good

For exceptional vision, technical leadership, and dedication advancing the mission of NASA and the Commercial Crew Program.

Mr. Good demonstrated exceptional leadership and resourcefulness during a 34-year Government career. As the Commercial Crew Program (CCP) lead for Crew Testing and Operations, Mike is a driving force behind successful collaboration which brings together two different commercial providers and experts across NASA Centers and disciplines. With his leadership focused on crew safety, he supports the mission to advance science and technology research, expand human knowledge, inspire and educate the next generation, foster the commercial development, and demonstrate capabilities to enable future exploration missions. His distinguished career includes serving as Mission Specialist on STS-125, the fifth and final space shuttle mission to the Hubble Space Telescope, and on STS-132 to deliver an Integrated Cargo Carrier and a Russian-built Mini Research Module to the International Space Station.

Tyrell Hawkins

For exceptional leadership in developing and leading organizational change within NASA.

Mr. Hawkins has been an outstanding leader in many roles, including Associate Director for Management in the Launch Vehicle Processing Directorate, supporting the Organizational Development Team as part of the Ground Processing Directorate in the post-Shuttle area, and in the Commercial Crew Program (CCP) as Manager of Launch and Recovery Systems and coleader of the Ground and Mission Operations Office. He demonstrated creative methods for maintaining limited critical civil service resources required to safely and successfully fly out the Space Shuttle Program. His efforts resulted in a new concept of operations for Kennedy Space Center. He was instrumental in leading the CCP's formative years, forging partnerships between Centers and with military partners, and his team influenced the tremendous progress of two commercial providers' launch and recovery systems.

William Hicks

For providing outstanding service, improvement, and leadership to the Program Planning and Control competency for the Agency and providing a profound impact on NASA's mission.

Mr. Hicks began his Federal career in 1981 and in 2013, became Chief Financial Officer for Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC). He is recognized today for his pivotal influence and exemplary work as leader of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer at MSFC. His vision in improving the Program Planning and Control competency made a profound impact on NASA's mission success. He served with distinction in various organizations including the Shuttle Propulsion Office, the Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications, and the National Space Science and Technology Center, ensuring a science research collaboration between NASA, Alabama universities, and research institutes. He has led change, executed resources, and developed new processes consistently in a distinguished manner, which enabled NASA to achieve extraordinary mission success within the span of his 30-plus-year tenure.

Andrew Hunter

For a career of outstanding leadership to NASA, distinguished service and exceptional dedication to the NASA's CFO community and beyond.

Mr. Hunter is recognized as an exceptional civil servant, making sustained contributions for over 30 years in NASA's Space Operations, Earth Science, and Exploration Programs and for the Agency's resource and financial operations community. As the Acting Chief Financial Officer, his dynamic leadership and broad experience significantly contributes to budget and performance management and to long-term strategic and investment planning to support NASA's mission. He is an outstanding contributor in building fiscal credibility and capability, improving congressional confidence in NASA's ability to deliver results and value to the taxpayer. Mr. Hunter's leadership of his divisions made NASA the Government-wide example for excellence in integrating budget, performance, and strategy and in the delivery of financial management services to NASA programs.

Dorsie Jones

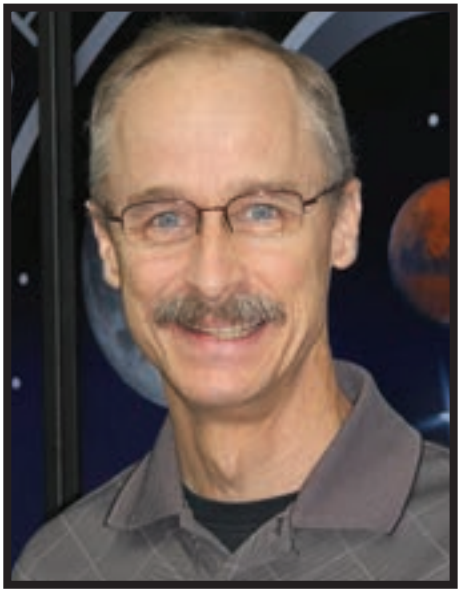
For sustained, exceptional service, and distinguished leadership contributing to the success of Stennis Space Center and the NASA mission.

Ms. Jones joined NASA in 1983 and has progressively served in every role within Human Resources (HR) at Stennis Space Center (SSC) over her 35-year career. In 2006, she was named manager of the SSC Office of Human Capital and has since led and directed all HR services, supporting the Center's ability to achieve mission success. Her leadership has been vital to building and sustaining a robust workforce for numerous NASA programs. From workforce planning to recruiting, hiring, training, and development, Ms. Jones serves as a guiding force behind SSC's cultural evolution. Most recently, she provided leadership to Agency-wide initiatives, including the Mission Support Future Architecture Program and resulting Human Capital transition. Her leadership has enabled SSC to consistently achieve mission success while cultivating an exceptional cultural model.

Vickie Kloeris

For exceptional commitment to NASA's mission and the physical and emotional health of NASA crew members demonstrated through leadership of the NASA Space Flight Food System.

Ms. Kloeris was an innovative leader of the NASA Space Flight Food System for over 32 years. She ensured the physical health and performance of space crewmembers and is a world-renowned expert in this highly specialized and exceptionally challenging field. As high sodium has been linked to the loss of bone strength in space, she and the NASA medical community reduced the sodium in space food while minimizing the impact on quality, flavor, and nutritional value. She led partnerships to establish a facility to produce shelf-stable foods for space flight, which is 40% of NASA's space food menu. Further, she oversaw the inclusion of international partners' foods and led modifications for beverages and freeze-dried foods packaging. She has demonstrated exceptional leadership, both within the Space Food Systems Laboratory and the national and international food science community.



Joseph Madden

For distinguished service, ability, and vision demonstrating excellence in the Exploration Ground Systems Program, making a profound, indelible impact on NASA Mission Success.

Mr. Madden is an outstanding leader and project manager whose achievements in 30-plus years have made a profound impact on mission success at NASA and Kennedy Space Center. As Communications Element (Comm) Senior Project Manager, Mr. Madden provides leadership in integration among Exploration Ground Systems (EGS) Elements, Information Technology/Kennedy Infrastructure Applications, and Comm Subsystem development teams. With his technical knowledge, Mr. Madden created Comm development roadmaps, allowing the team to re-plan multiple development projects, invaluable to delivery of Communications System capabilities. His leadership in recovery planning for the Paging and Area Warning System, and in the integration of the Imagery Views Report, is further evidence of his dedication. Mr. Madden's initiative continually supports the goals of NASA programs.

Edward Masuoka

For a distinguished lifetime of service in leading the development and managing NASA Earth Science satellite data processing and distribution services at GSFC.

Mr. Masuoka is widely recognized by the Earth Science community as a leader in the development of state-of-the-art satellite data processing and distribution. In almost 40 years, Mr. Masuoka made many outstanding contributions, advancing NASA's mission by leading the development and management of satellite data processing and distribution services at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. As Chief of the Terrestrial Information Systems Laboratory, he focused on data systems that produce, archive, and distribute integrated data products from Earth-observing satellites, collecting over 20 years of climate data records. This contributed to thousands of scientific publications and set a new standard for production of global geophysical data. Mr. Masuoka's lifetime of dedication and service played a key role in the success of many important NASA Earth Science missions.

Todd May

For sustained, exceptional service, and distinguished leadership enabling the success of the Marshall Space Flight Center and the NASA mission.

Mr. May has had a distinguished 27-year career, having served in many Agency programs and as the Director and Deputy Director of Marshall Space Flight Center. He served in a pivotal leadership role guiding the development of the Space Launch System (SLS) from its inception. Prior to SLS, he was Marshall's Associate Director, Technical, where he was responsible for ensuring that all Center activities, processes, and policies were consistent with the Nation's Space Exploration Policy. He was Associate Program Manager for the Constellation Program and Deputy Director of Marshall's Science and Mission Systems Office, helping lead the organization responsible for the Center's nonlaunch vehicle programs and projects. He also managed the Discovery and New Frontiers Programs, created to explore the solar system with frequent uncrewed spacecraft missions.

William Myers

For outstanding and sustained high performance, dedication, and service to the mission of NASA through technical and creative contributions.

During a 51-year career, Mr. Myers has sustained high performance resulting in many technically significant achievements and inventions across major NASA programs. His contributions and breadth of experience as a highly regarded expert in the design of space propulsion systems have established him as an Agency and industry asset. He has been awarded 27 patents that have either directly impacted NASA programs or reached into worldwide application. Resulting from these inventive ideas, he has been recognized as NASA Marshall Space Flight Center Inventor of the Year three times. His 2017 development of the Variable Aperture Reciprocating Reed Valve was critical to the development of a specialized fluid damper design utilizing a unique adjustable reed valve. The design was significant as it successfully transferred NASA technology into commercial use.

Jim Reuter

For a career of distinguished service and extraordinary management of NASA's space technology programs.

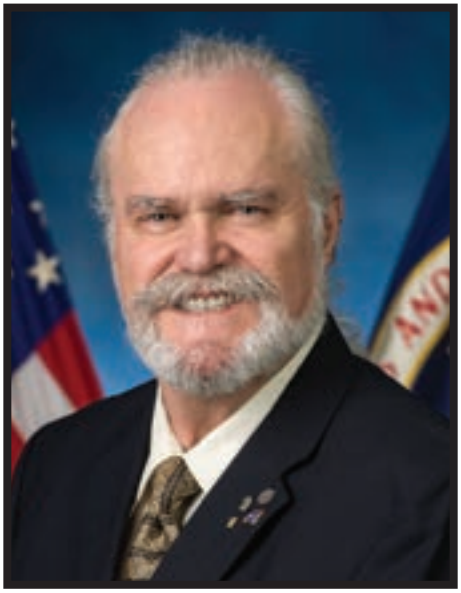
Mr. Reuter began his NASA career in 1983 as an aerospace engineer at Marshall Space Flight Center. Over the last 36 years, he has served in critical engineering and managerial capacities across the Agency, including International Space Station Environmental Control and Life Support System Manager at Johnson Space Center, numerous managerial roles at Marshall Space Flight Center, Senior Executive for Technical Integration in the Center Director's Office at Marshall, and Deputy Associate Administrator for Programs at NASA Headquarters (HQ). Most recently, Mr. Reuter served as the Acting Associate Administrator within the Space Technology Mission Directorate at NASA HQ. His broad knowledge of and technical expertise in NASA's programs and projects has allowed Mr. Reuter to consistently balance organizational interests with Center and Agency priorities.

Melvin Scruggs

For distinguished service that has profoundly impacted the effectiveness of NASA with other Federal agencies, ensuring mission success for critical Agency programs.

During 39 years at Marshall Space Flight Center, Mr. Scruggs has been instrumental in ensuring Agency mission success due to his contributions to the Center, Redstone Arsenal, and the community. He has led significant budget, integration, and collaboration projects throughout his NASA career that have had a positive, direct impact on a range of NASA programs, including the Shuttle and Space Launch System. His efforts impacted the generational mission program transition and integration efforts from Shuttle to follow-on operations saved millions of dollars in operating costs and other efficiencies. He established innovative partnerships, including collaborating with the Army, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Tennessee Valley Authority, and the local community to develop a process to rapidly vet potential improvements with a current accumulated savings of ~$30 million.

Robert Scully



For extraordinary and sustained contributions to the protection of aerospace systems from lightning and electromagnetic interference for all human space flight programs.

Dr. Scully has achieved extraordinary contributions to the protection of aerospace systems from lightning and electromagnetic interference for NASA's human space flight programs. His efforts have foundationally shaped the future of NASA space technology, while permanently enriching the knowledge of scientists and engineers through the dissemination of his technical expertise throughout the Agency. Dr. Scully worked with the Ascent Debris Radar Working Group from Kennedy Space Center to identify and implement a radar debris monitoring system while defining methodologies for protecting launch facilities, personnel, and the launch vehicle from excessive radio frequency energy exposure. The impact and importance of Dr. Scully's accomplishments have been instrumental to the past and ongoing success of NASA human space flight and beyond.

Jaiwon Shin

For distinguished service, extraordinary contributions, and outstanding leadership managing NASA's aeronautics research portfolio and guiding its strategic direction.

Dr. Shin has exemplified excellence during his distinguished 30-year career beginning at Glenn Research Center. In 2008, he was named Associate Administrator of the Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate, a role in which he's provided notable leadership in the management of the Agency's aeronautics research portfolio and guiding its strategic direction, including research in advanced air vehicle concepts, airspace operations and safety, and integrated aviation systems, and nurtured and developed transformative concepts for aviation. He has contributed to Federal and international collaboration as chair of the National Science and Technology Council Aeronautics Subcommittee that wrote the first presidential policy for aeronautics research and the International Forum for Aviation Research, connecting 26 countries in research and knowledge sharing on the world's aviation challenges.

Patrick Simpkins

For sustained and distinguished service, ability, and vision, demonstrating a level of excellence that has made a profound and indelible impact on NASA mission success.

Throughout Dr. Simpkins' career, his contributions have been invaluable to Kennedy Space Center (KSC) and NASA. Dedicated to the mission of human and uncrewed space flight, he was a leader in Human Resources (HR) and engineering management. He guided the Shuttle Launch Control Center for 120+ missions and led the Fluid Systems Division. As KSC Personnel Officer, he created NASA's first competency management system and led workforce planning for the KSC 2000 reorganization. At Headquarters, he assessed workforce capabilities after the Columbia accident and validated the need for the NASA Workforce Flexibility Act. His contributions led to NASA's recognition as the first agency to achieve a green rating for strategic HR management. He played a key role in developing KSC as a multiuser spaceport, spending 10 years as KSC Director of Engineering and Chief Engineer.

Steven Sullivan

For outstanding leadership, production, and execution in building NASA's technical role to continue our path to human space flight.

As the NASA Kennedy Space Center Chief Engineer for the Commercial Crew Program, Mr. Sullivan is transforming the future of human space flight. Mr. Sullivan has expertly balanced the technical risks associated with commercial standards and practices with reliable, but more costly, NASA standards and practices used in NASA human space flight. His leadership and execution of the first test flight of the uncrewed SpaceX Demonstration Mission-1 to the International Space Station is a testament of his prowess and commitment to the Program, Agency, and Nation. Mr. Sullivan's exceptional technical leadership, fortitude, and candor have established trust, confidence, and respect from his NASA and commercial colleagues, as well as NASA's senior leadership. He serves as an innovator and pioneer in human space flight, and his efforts will serve as an example for future generations.

Eric Thaxton

For significant contributions to NASA's mission as a mentor, a teacher, and protector of taxpayer dollars.

Dr. Thaxton made substantial improvement in operations, efficiency, service, and financial savings while supporting NASA's missions. He was a mentor and teacher of many engineers at Kennedy Space Center (KSC) and looks for innovative solutions to every problem, simple or complicated. His biggest impact is from saving millions of dollars by referencing commercial standards for fluid system cleanliness in KSC design specifications and creatively combining speed and load to achieve a test with limits to both capabilities for the Crawler-Transporter Crawlerway conditioning program. He also mitigated an Environmental Control System issue by successfully diagnosing a low flow anomaly, precluding the need for a major redesign. Dr. Thaxton's lasting impact on everyone who works with him, especially the early-career engineers who will dictate NASA's future, is unparalleled.

Michael Van Houten

For distinguished service to NASA and KSC, demonstrating an unparalleled level of excellence in the Exploration Ground Systems Program.

Mr. Van Houten serves NASA with distinction, significantly influencing the progress of Exploration Ground Systems (EGS) with exceptional project management. As Command, Control and Communications (C3) Launch Control System (LCS) Integrated Product Team Lead, he managed delivery of the critical system software capability to process hazardous operations, the first launch software to be developed for NASA human space flight missions at KSC since the Space Shuttle Program. Most recently, Mr. Van Houten led the team to solve a cross-program software risk and led upgrading hardware in firing rooms without shutting down remote testing in the field. His innovative ways resolve issues by effectively reaching across directorate and divisional lines to form alliances. Mr. Van Houten's efforts have transformed the C3 organization, the EGS program, and NASA's space flight missions.

Brenton Weathered

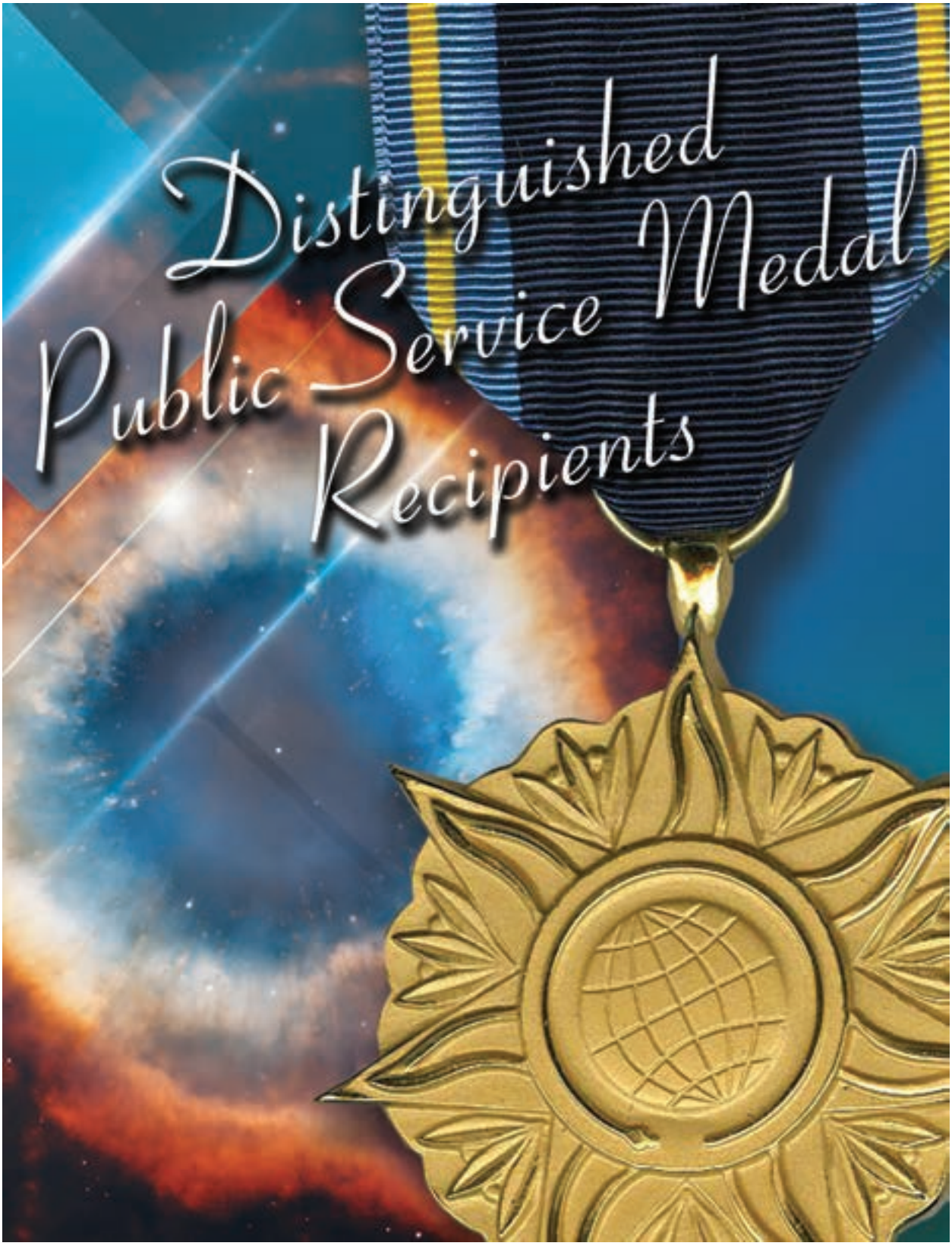
For leadership of flight operations and research at NASA Langley on behalf of Agency, national and international partners.

A national leader for flight operations and research at Langley Research Center (LaRC) for over 25 years, Mr. Weathered currently serves as Chief Engineer for Intelligent Flight Systems, overseeing the technical products of six branches and advising on technical policy. For 25 of his 30 years at LaRC, Mr. Weathered has led the Center's Airworthiness and Safety Review Board, with final approval authority for all LaRC aircraft research modifications and research flight missions. He also helped develop LaRC's unmanned aircraft system (UAS) policy, reviewing and approving over 120 UAS flight experiments in the last 4 years. The research missions conducted under Mr. Weathered's oversight and approval have profoundly impacted the Nation's economy, aviation regulation, air carrier safety, and global understanding of climate change and weather.

Terry Wilcutt

For distinguished support and outstanding leadership of NASA's safety and mission assurance activities, and indelible contributions to the Space Shuttle program.

Mr. Wilcutt's distinguished career spans over 40 years dedicated to serving the United States and NASA. As NASA's Chief of the Office of Safety and Mission Assurance for NASA since 2011, he assures the safety and enhances the success of all NASA activities through the development, implementation, and oversight of Agency-wide safety, reliability, maintainability, and quality assurance policies and procedures. Due to his extraordinary accomplishments as Chief of Safety, NASA had no mishaps in 2016, a first in the history of the Agency. His work establishing international partnerships increased the U.S.'s alliances for safety in space research, and his passion for continually educating and training all NASA employees and senior leaders on safety and what constitutes an engaged safety culture saves lives and missions across the Agency.


Distinguished
Public Service Medal
Recipients

Alaudin Bhanji (Awarded Posthumously)

For transformational advances in NASA's Deep Space Network, achieving dramatic cost efficiencies and critical new capabilities, with exceptionally high reliability.

After many years of exceptional service and a career conceiving and implementing crucial enhancements to NASA's Deep Space Network (DSN), Mr. Bhanji passed away in July 2019. For more than 40 years, his vision and leadership created architectural, technological, and system-wide advances in the DSN crucial to NASA's success. He managed the DSN and led developments of new antennas, frequencies, higher data rates, and higher power transmitters. He transformed the DSN, improving efficiency and cost-reduction efforts that included implementing automated link building, follow-the-sun operations, and changing from one link per operator to two links per operator, and finally three links per operator. These improvements created funding he used to retire dated antennas and construct new ones while reducing recurring operating costs by more than 40%. His leadership of extraordinary architectural advances transformed the world.

Daniel Coulter

For distinguished service in the development of cryogenic and large telescope systems for NASA, including wavefront sensing and control for coronagraphy and interferometry.

Dr. Coulter devoted his career to the development of advanced optical systems in support of NASA's vision for understanding our origins and determining if life exists outside the solar system. He played a key role in advancing technologies required for the detection of gravitational waves, and his innovative telescope operating techniques were instrumental for Spitzer and the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST). He formed alliances with Goddard Space Flight Center and non-NASA organizations to maximize the Nation's investments in advanced telescope systems. As Deputy Director of Astronomy and Physics at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), he developed a strategic road map for astrophysics and ensured JPL implement tasks in an efficient and reliable manner delivering several national security projects.

Robert Ergun

For distinguished service to NASA in designing and building innovative electric field instrumentation for flight missions.

Professor Ergun is a world leader in the measurement of electric fields in space. He has led or played a key role in instruments on many NASA missions, including: FAST, THEMIS, Van Allen Probes, MAVEN, MMS, Parker Solar Probe, and many sounding rockets. His achievements include: designing the signal processing algorithms for the FAST electric field instrument; planning boom systems to minimize the impact of spacecraft operations on science data collection, thereby enabling the success of the MAVEN Langmuir Probe and Waves instrument and studies of Martian atmospheric escape; and facilitating the first high-accuracy, three-dimensional, low-frequency electric field measurements in the magnetosphere with the design of the MMS axial electric field booms and sensors. His drive for excellence has been vital for NASA's success in space plasma research.

Michael Graybill

For identification of improvements that will reduce flight hardware manufacturing issues and increase crew safety for the Commercial Crew Program.

Mr. Graybill is an invaluable member and leader of the Commercial Crew Program (CCP) Safety and Mission Assurance team. He has been instrumental in executing a new way of identifying and implementing Government surveillance of the Human-Rated Space Flight Program, with his efforts resulting in the improvement of multiple production operations for partner spacecraft slated to carry astronauts to the International Space Station. Mr. Graybill has used his experience and expertise in aerospace manufacturing and production to work closely with the partner, helping it understand the importance of tight-controlled production processes for human-rated systems. His collaboration with the CCP community and the partner has garnered tangible improvements to manufacturing and integration processes, which have increased the quality and safety of the CCP.

Thomas Howsman

For sustained leadership, vision, and influence within the integrated vehicle loads community.

Dr. Howsman has had a career of dedication, leadership, and vision for the vehicle loads team whose efforts were critical for design, integration, and operation of launch vehicles ranging from the Space Shuttle to the Space Launch System (SLS). He chiefly planned, executed, integrated, and interpreted over 20 separate loads analysis cycles for the Ares and SLS launch vehicles. He provided sustained, dedicated servant leadership to a large and diverse team, performing complex technical analysis in the critical path of cross-Program development activities. He also leveraged his unique ability to develop portions of the first-ever rapid model correlation methodology to be utilized by SLS prior to launch. It is without question the SLS launch vehicle would not be where it is today without the perseverance, dedication, talents, leadership, and commitment of Dr. Howsman.

Miguel Larsen

Recognition of pioneering research to measure vertical profiles of the Earth's upper atmospheric winds and leading over 100 NASA sounding rockets during 40 years of research.

Dr. Larsen, physics professor at Clemson University, dedicated his life's work to measuring and interpreting upper atmospheric winds using vapor trails released along sounding rocket trajectories. He led the world in pioneering the technique of using luminescent vapor trails to track the speed and direction of upper atmospheric winds for night and day observations. He demonstrated that wind speeds of the Earth's upper atmosphere are significantly higher than expected, which fundamentally changed our appreciation of the Earth's upper atmosphere. Further, he gathered distributed wind measurements to provide unprecedented three-dimensional measurements of the dynamics and vorticity inherent to unstable wind fields at high latitudes. He is the undisputed world leader of wind profiles in the upper atmosphere, securing a solid foundation for future explorations.

Charles Lawrence

For distinguished leadership and service to NASA and the Nation in the pursuit and advancement of the fields of astrophysics and cosmology.

Dr. Lawrence demonstrated distinguished service to NASA as an internationally renowned astronomer with extensive public engagement, scientific productivity, technological foresight, and programmatic leadership. He has done so while delivering scientific results which shaped the way we view the Universe. He co-led a study for a cosmic microwave background mission after the Cosmic Background Explorer and served as Instrument Scientist and, later, Deputy Project Scientist for the Spitzer Infrared Spectrograph, where his novel approach for consistent low temperature extended the mission by 20% and enabled outstanding science. As Chief Scientist for Astronomy and Physics at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, he advises on science strategies for exoplanets, astrophysics, heliophysics and cosmology. The impact of his public service and his ability to guide the community are unparalleled.

Edward Sikora

For unprecedented engine/cryogenic propulsion technical leadership and vision that will have a profound impact on future flight safety and mission success.

Mr. Sikora provided distinguished service to NASA and human space flight exploration since the Space Shuttle Program as Main Engine Test Engineer at Kennedy Space Center, during which time he became the authority in cryogenic propulsion. He was instrumental in the resolution of engine cut off sensor anomalies, intermittent liquid hydrogen sensor failures, and screening for flight multiplexer de-multiplexers. Since then, Mr. Sikora has applied his vast cryogenic/propulsion knowledge to development of ground and flight application software, launch commit criteria, and processes for Exploration Missions and SLS, all of which reduce time and labor and enable launch decisions. Throughout his career, Mr. Sikora has exemplified expertise, ingenuity, and work ethic to assist NASA's leadership in space exploration.

Robert Sinclair

For leadership in the design and development of the parachute systems which will be used to land every United States human spacecraft for the next generation of space travel.

Mr. Sinclair, Chief Engineer for Space and Recovery Systems for Airborne Systems, has done an exceptional job as lead for the design, manufacture, test, and integration of parachute landing systems for the Orion Program, both Commercial Crew Program partners, and the Blue Origin New Shepard Program. Being the lead designer for four human-rated parachute systems simultaneously is an unprecedented accomplishment, and his mark on human space flight is indelible. He served on the Jet Propulsion Laboratory Verification and Validation panel for the Mars Science Laboratory Entry, Descent, and Landing System and has been instrumental in the development of military parachute systems. He has served as an American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Aerodynamic Decelerator Systems Technical Committee member and on the National Research Council of the National Academies.

Jakob van Zyl

For distinguished service and leadership over a long career contributing to a multitude of successful NASA missions and instruments.

Dr. van Zyl distinguished himself by the significant contributions he made to NASA during his 33-year career. Simultaneously, with achieving world renown for his research in radar polarimetric scattering and image analysis, he distinguished himself as an outstanding leader, resulting in his appointment to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) Executive Council. His development of imaging radar polarimetry led to the world's most advanced multifrequency polarimetric airborne Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and interferometric topographic SAR system. He also managed the operations of all JPL Earth Science missions and instruments developed for other NASA Centers and international space agencies. In recent years, he's defined, formulated, acquired, and implemented all missions in the solar system except Mars. He consistently delivered successful missions that produced trailblazing results.

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Appreciation is extended to special guests the Armed Forces Color Guard and vocalist Linda Glusing for her performance today.

Additional thanks is given to the NASA Shared Services Center (NSSC) for coordinating and supporting the 2019 Administrator's Agency Honor Awards Ceremony as well as year-round support of the Agency's Awards and Recognition programs.

To the extraordinary Honorees, we thank you for participating in today's event, and we wish you much continued success in all of your endeavors. For the benefit of all, may you continue to strive to reach new heights and inspire future generations of explorers and pioneers.

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Pictured:
Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO)
Back Cover: Orion Spacecraft
Back Cover: Gateway

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